

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Attorney Docket No.: 3110.22US02

Hochschuler et al.

Confirmation No.: 7691

Application No.: 10/804,761

Examiner: Michael J. Araj

Filed: March 19, 2004

Group Art Unit: 3775

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TREATING A VERTEBRAL BODY

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56, and in addition to information disclosed in any prior Information Disclosure Statements filed, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of the above-referenced application, and be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

The listing of a reference herein is not an admission that the reference is prior art or is material to patentability. 37 CFR § 1.97(h). Applicant reserves the right to establish the patentability of any claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or prove that this information may not be enabling for any aspect of the information provided herewith.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action and in connection with the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under 37 CFR § 1.114. No certification or fee is required. 37 CFR § 1.97(b)(4).

The Examiner's attention is directed to the applications or patents, if any, to which priority is claimed, as well as to any continuing applications which claim priority to the above-referenced application, and to applications, if any, that may be related by virtue of similar claimed subject matter as the above-referenced application (collectively, the "Related Case(s)"). The Related Case(s), or documents associated with the Related Case(s), are identified on the attached form PTO-1449 by serial number, publication number and/or patent number, along with a copy of the current prosecution history, downloaded from PAIR where available. The current prosecution history for the Related Case(s) is submitted as an NPL document for the convenience of the Examiner.

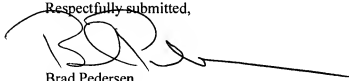
The prosecution history for any and all of these Related Case(s) may include information material to patentability of the above-referenced application including Office Actions, Responses, Office Communications or Notices of Allowance, all of which are readily accessible to the Examiner via PAIR/PALM. To promote consistency and full disclosure during the prosecution of the above-referenced application together with the prosecution of any of the Related Case(s) and to assist the Examiner in complying with the obligations of MPEP 2001.06(b), the Examiner is respectfully requested to review the prosecution history of each of the Related Case(s). **This request for review should be considered ongoing throughout the prosecution of the above-referenced application with an updated review via PAIR/PALM of the prosecution histories of any Related Case(s) being made prior to issuance of any Notice of Allowance for the above-referenced application.**

The identification of any of the Related Case(s) for purposes of this Information Disclosure

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Statement should not be construed as a waiver of secrecy, if applicable, as to such applications now or upon issuance of the above-referenced application as a patent.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BP', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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Please grant any extension of time necessary for entry; charge any fee due to Deposit Account No. 16-0631.